

Nursing Workforce in Missouri

An Overview of Nursing Careers

October 2007

Drivers in the Healthcare Sector

Nursing careers have been one driver in the overall growth in the healthcare industry. From 2000 to 2004:

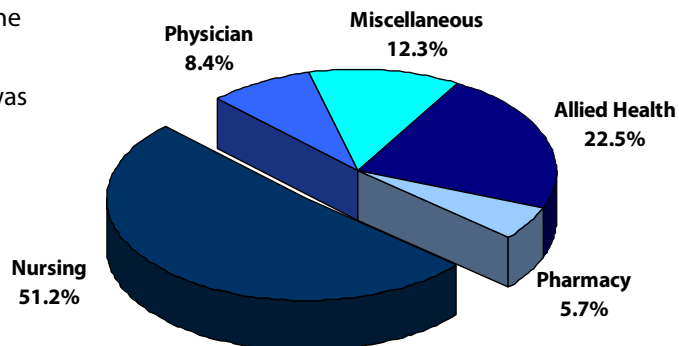
- Over 11 percent of total job growth in the health care sector was due to the growth of nursing jobs.
- More than 2,000 net jobs were created during that period in nursing careers.

Economic Shift

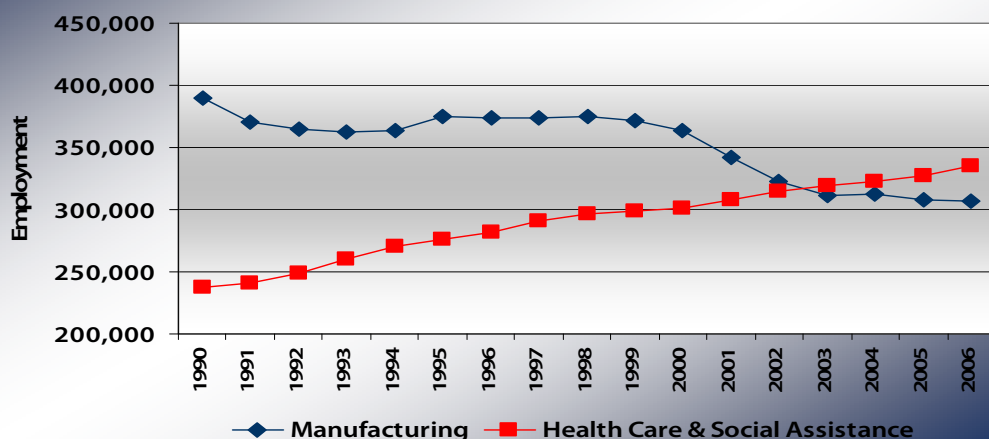
Like the U.S., Missouri is shifting from a goods-producing to a service-providing economy. This trend is evident when comparing historical industry employment in Manufacturing versus Health Care and Social Assistance.

In 1990, Manufacturing accounted for nearly 17 percent of jobs statewide with Healthcare/Social Assistance accounting for only 10 percent of jobs. Since then, Health Care/Social Assistance added over 97,000 jobs to account for more than 12 percent of statewide employment in 2004. During that same time period, Manufacturing lost more than 83,000 jobs and now accounts for just over 11 percent of statewide employment.

Healthcare Occupations in Missouri
(Nov. 2004)

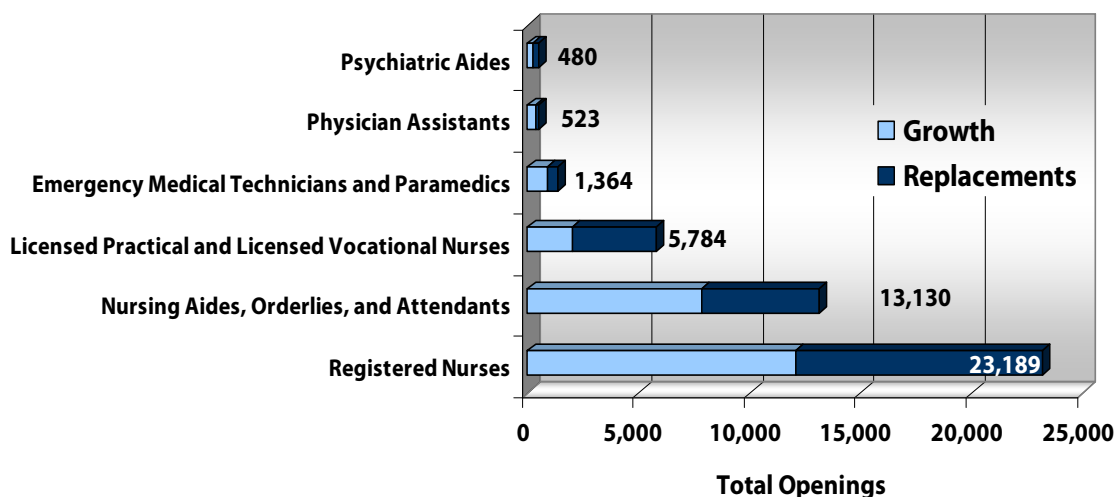


Manufacturing and
Healthcare & Social Assistance Employment



Source: MERIC, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 1990-2006, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Projected Openings for Selected Nursing Occupations in Missouri, 2004-14



Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2004-2014, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Outlook for Nursing Careers

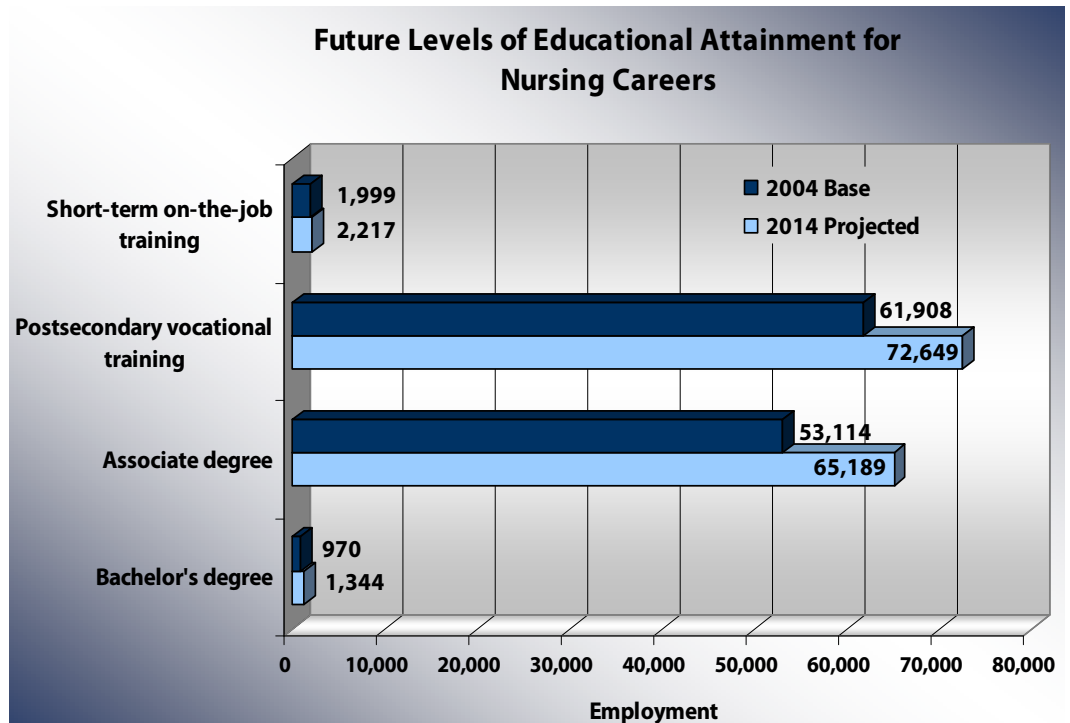
From 2004-2014, Nursing careers are projected to add over 23,000 jobs due to growth – an increase of nearly 20 percent during the period.

Total job openings over the ten-year period are a combination of both growth and replacements. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy. Replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements – not new jobs. Nursing occupations are projected to have 23,408 openings due to growth and 21,062 due to replacements.

The Future for Nursing Training

In 2014, over 61 percent of workers in Nursing careers will be employed in occupations that typically require postsecondary vocational training.

Expected job openings in Nursing will also place demands on those receiving Associate and Bachelor's degrees over the next ten years. In 2014, 56 percent of Nursing workers will need skills typically obtained their first professional degree.



Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2004-2014, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Wage Rates for Nursing Occupations

Occupation	2004 Employment	Hourly Wage		
		Average	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Registered Nurses	53,114	\$23.18	\$18.92	\$26.64
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	40,542	\$9.23	\$7.73	\$10.56
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	17,182	\$14.68	\$12.31	\$16.65
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	4,184	\$14.07	\$9.96	\$15.98
Psychiatric Aides	1,999	\$9.12	\$7.70	\$10.35
Physician Assistants	970	\$26.68	\$13.63	\$34.90

Source: MERIC, Occupational Employment Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Registered Nurses, one of the fastest growing occupations in the Nursing sector, project to grow by over 22 percent over the next decade.

This occupation pays an above average wage of \$23.18 per hour.

Training Providers for Nursing Careers

In Missouri, there are 90 training providers/educational institutions that offer Nursing Career training programs.

Twenty percent of the Nursing Career training providers in the state (18) are located in the two major metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis.

However, there is ample access to other Nursing training providers across Missouri including smaller metropolitan areas such as Jefferson City, Springfield, and Cape Girardeau.

For a complete listing of Nursing occupations, visit the MERIC website at:

http://www.missourieconomy.org/occupations/health_clusters.stm

